

Labouring man—awaked at length
Recognise your own proud strength.
Every wheel on earth stands still,
If this only be your will.

—London East End tailors' poem (1890s)

'your baby could have been killed'—local doctor.

In the June edition of 'Which' magazine there was a report on the quality of maternity services in three different parts of Britain. As a result of that article, and prompted by a number of complaints that we have received from time to time, we decided to investigate conditions for mother's locally. So far our initial investigations have produced some fairly alarming facts, we are convinced that there has been a serious deterioration in the quality of the national health service, one that gives very real cause for concern.

The 'Which' report concluded with the following criticisms and recommendations, each of which we are looking at in this area.

1. Criticism of delays in anti-natal clinics and surgeries.
2. Lack of privacy and respect accorded to women by the system.
3. Lack of co-ordination between departments and conflicting advice given by different officials.
4. Insufficient information for mothers having babies at home (how to cope in emergencies, etc)
5. Insufficient attention to mothers in labour in hospital, insufficient help with pain.
6. Lack of information about choice of hospitals.
7. Insufficient freedom of choice in feeding methods.
8. Inadequate free contraceptive advice to mothers.

HACKNEY & QUEEN, ELIZABETH GROUP
HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MOTHERS' HOSPITAL
(SALVATION ARMY)
LOWER CLAPTON ROAD
LONDON, E.5
Telephone: 985-6661

Regarding waiting times in anti-natal clinics, both the 'Mothers Hospital' and the Maternity Unit of the Hackney Hospital (the two main maternity units locally) use a block booking system, that is the procedure whereby a large number of mothers all arrive at the same time, say 2.30 p.m. and then another group at say 3 p.m. and so on. This frequently causes long delays and invariably more mothers are given appointments than can be seen in the available time. Some mothers we have talked to claim to have spent up to three and a half hours on their first visit, just to fill in three forms and collect a few iron pills. All pregnant women are issued with free iron pills, but often, and this appears particularly so at the 'Mothers Hospital' they are not told that they are also fully entitled to free vitamin pills too. These can be collected from the Welfare Foods Centres. One could have thought that the Health Service and hospital administrators would have had the wit to have supplied the vitamin pills at the same time as the iron pills.



But, well after all, what does it matter if a few working class pregnant mums have to travel across Hackney (a borough noted for its 'efficient' public transport services) to collect essential pills (provided of course they know about them in the first place) Efficient management perhaps in the administrators interests, and the Tories are all in favour of good 'efficient' management.

On the question of special diets, neither local hospital has any constructive policy on advising mothers on a sensible diet, essential for the well-being of the developing foetus. Neither of them issue diet sheets, or in fact give any advice whatsoever. The mother is simply asked on each visit, 'Are you eating well?' One can't get a more pointless question than that. Typically, the hospitals compound this lack of concern for a good diet by giving the mothers in hospital the most ill-advised diet. A typical breakfast at the 'Mothers' hospital is greasy fish fingers. Eggs and fresh milk are rare commodities, even for breast feeding mothers. And when they leave hospital, few mothers are told that they can buy a number of baby foods - at cheap prices - from the Welfare Foods Centres, instead they pay the exorbitant prices that the big manufacturers charge in the shops.

In the space of a short article, we can give few details, but let four case histories, told to us by local mothers, illustrate what it's like to suffer the faults and omissions of the local services.

CASE 'A'

In April of this year, Mrs Z was taken into the Maternity Unit of the Hackney Hospital to have her baby. Two hours before the child was born she was asked, 'And what have they been giving you for the infection?' Her record stated that she had been suffering since Christmas from an infection of the kidneys which had been spreading. No treatment whatever had been given. 'It could have killed your baby' said the doctor tactfully to the woman after her child was born.

Continued on inside front page

INSITE

from the Diary of a Mad Building Worker

With the Tories Industrial Relations Bill on the verge of being pushed through parliament, it is essential that the working class fight, and fight hard, to hold on to the rights they have won by hard battles over the years. The workers basic defence organisations are of course the trade unions, but unfortunately, not all workers are organised into trade unions and indeed there are still many workers who even today fail to see the need for unions. They fall for all the old rubbish that the Tory press churns out. The Building trade has always been backward in this respect. Building workers traditionally move from one part of the country to another as one job finishes and another starts up. A fairly large percentage of the labourers and tradesmen in the industry are Irishmen, who have no particular reason to settle in any one area. On one hand this gives the worker a certain degree of independence from the job, but on the other it creates an attitude of mind that makes a man tolerant of poor wages and conditions on a site, because he feels that he can always leave and go to another site where 'maybe' the rates are higher. Too many workers with that sort of attitude simply means that the conditions will never get better. On the site where I work, before we formed a union, a man was sacked for no apparent reason other than he didn't get along with the ganger (the term used in such cases is 'unsuitable'). When I questioned one of the other lads about this he said; 'Ah well, he was only a Belfast man anyway'. When asked what he would do if found to be 'unsuitable' he gave a characteristic shrug and said he'd go off and work with Macalpines, who he believed were a better firm.



The building industry not only suffers from inadequate awareness of the need for union solidarity, it also suffers paradoxically from too many unions, all the trades and grades have their own unions, labourers, bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers are all in their own small unions, which, encouraged no doubt by the bosses, are constantly engaged in small inter-cinical disputes. Jealously guarding their own exclusive interests. Ironically all these men have to work together in the bosses interests, and they all have to work for the same boss, who organises and directs their labour, their wages and conditions. It has become very clear recently that the obvious way to fight the employers in the face of growing unemployment in the building trade, is for all the men in the industry to form one big union.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO COLUMN TWO

Maternity Hospitals

from the front page

CASE 'B'

Mrs Y talked about the birth of her second child at home. 'I had a very easy time, but it was what occurred afterwards that upset me. A vital injection - the one to prevent haemorrhaging after the birth - was not in the midwife's bag and my husband had to go immediately to Hackney Hospital to get it. He was told afterwards that any delay might have cost me my life. And then the doctor who was supposed to stitch me didn't turn up until several hours after the birth - when the drugs had worn off - and did it without giving any local anaesthetic. The birth itself was nothing compared to that.'

CASE 'C'

"The archaic conditions at the 'Mothers Hospital' in Clapton Road, where I had both my children, are really quite incredible. The lighting in the Admission Room, where I delivered, was so bad that the doctor almost refused to stitch me there, saying that he could 'nt see what he was doing properly.

But there was nowhere else I could be taken. There was one really dreadful bathroom which had to be shared by about 25 women in the ward; and it was also used as an additional nursery at night, as the existing one was not big enough for all the cots. Things at the ante-natal clinic there were hardly better. Sometimes you'd wait a good two hours before anyone saw you, and very often there were 'nt enough chairs. Relaxation classes were never mentioned, there was only one obscure notice pinned up about them, as a result they were poorly attended, only a dozen or so mothers regularly attended. The film that was shown at the end of the course, intended for husbands as well, was frighteningly old fashioned and out of touch, it was a most unattractive introduction to childbirth."

CASE 'D'

Mrs 'X' who had her baby in the Hackney Hospital Maternity Unit had to be operated on three days after the birth because a substantial part of the after-birth had not been removed.

We feel sure that these cases represent only a small percentage

These cases represent in our opinion the tip of the iceberg, one wonders what magnitude of complaints would emerge from a full enquiry

Contrast the conditions that we have had told to us in our front page story with the sort of attention that the royal family have been recently getting, and the contrast is a striking one. It is easy for spokesmen to talk about 'mistakes happening, but it seems to us that the sort of 'mistakes' that happen to working class people in Hackney Hospitals are not the sort of things that happen to regal parasites in the King Edward VII Hospital for Officers. In Hackney the people are expected to put up with inadequate facilities, and hospitals that have grossly understaffed and heavily overworked (and underpaid) doctors and nurses. The young princess goes in right away for an operation that many women have to wait months to have done, she goes in to get the attention of a small army of specialists and experts who dance around her night and day. But don't get us wrong, we don't grudge anyone that sort of treatment. Indeed we believe that the sort of conditions that should exist in every hospital everywhere. We believe that if it's good enough for our royals, then it's good enough for us.

We believe that the Tories policy of welfare cuts are symptomatic of the callous disregard the boss class shows towards workers and their families.

We demand an immediate investigation into the deterioration of the health service in this area. A public enquiry into the maternity services seems to be of crucial importance. We would suggest that the Council form a fully representative committee of inquiry, representing mothers, trade unionists, doctors and nurses, claimants and other representative groups in the area.

We are well aware that it is a 'national' question, and we are also well aware that the Labour Council are 'sensitive' to any suggestion that they are not working hard for socialism, but we are anxious to see some sort of results, it is easy to talk, but we need action. **NOW**

Insite

from page one

This has led to the emergence of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, which represents all groups save Plumbers and Electricians. This is a very important step for, as you will no doubt realise, the employers do not take long to get together to take combined action when it comes to lowering wages or raising prices. So the workers too must get together, irrespective of whether they carry bricks in a hod or whether they put them on top of one another to make a wall. The workers are all fighting the same enemy - the man who employs them.

If you are working on a site or a factory which is not unionised, talk to your mates about their attitudes to forming a union. You will probably find that they are a bit sceptical about the advantages of belonging to a union, but this is only an excuse for being too lazy to make the first move. You must do that yourself. Ring the Head Office of the Union, explaining the position, and they will send round an organiser to talk to the men. These are full-time Trade Union men who fear neither man, beast, nor machine and the respect even awe, with which they are treated by the employers is enough to gladden the heart of the most dispirited worker. The importance of this basic cannot be better illustrated than by quoting the last words of Joe Hill, founder of the Industrial Workers of the World, as he was led to his execution in America -

'DON'T MOURN -
ORGANISE!'

NATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF PRISONERS AND DEPENDANTS

In response to the serious situation existing in British prisons workers have got together and formed a new organisation, the aims of which are stated here in a document. Further information can be obtained from 52 Jenner Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.16.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF PRISONERS AND DEPENDENTS

The National Organisation for the Defence of Prisoners and Dependents exists to protect the democratic rights and dignity of men and women who are in prison. The NODPD will also strive to do everything in its power to protect and advance the interests of the dependents of prisoners.

The NODPD does not necessarily condone the crimes that prisoners have committed and is not primarily interested in the reasons why prisoners have been jailed.

The NODPD recognizes that most crimes are committed because of the type of system that exists in Britain, a system that is based upon profit rather than the real needs of the people, a system which imprisons thousands upon thousands of men and women from the working class whilst at the same time leaving the real criminals free to carry on with the legal robbery of the people on a massive scale.

The NODPD is fully aware that a system of double sentence exists in the prisons up and down the country. First, the prisoner is sentenced to serve a term in prison, and second he is sentenced to deprivations of his democratic rights, attacks on his dignity, and to various types of brutalities.

YOU
CAN'T
JAIL
THE
TRUTH

Within the prisons attacks - both physical and mental - are commonplace. Solidarity confinement, the employment of strait jackets, racialism, deprival of exercise, bad working conditions and inadequate safety precautions, petty restrictions and provocative acts such as the breaking of wirelenses, outright physical atrocities . . . all these and other unjustified sanctions are regularly applied to prisoners in the jails of this country. The NODPD also recognises that the prison authorities have consciously provoked prisoners into rioting and have used riot situations as an opportunity to criminally assault prisoners. In many cases this has left prisoners with permanent injuries, in particular scars and injured limbs. Some prisoners have been so badly brutalized that they will never completely regain their health. There is also the probability that prisoners have been murdered whilst serving their sentences.

The NODPD will not stand by and watch whilst prisoners are subjected to these fascist attacks. The NODPD will ruthlessly expose all attacks against prisoners, whatever form these attacks take, and will seek where appropriate to take summonses out against the governors of the prisons where such atrocities take place.

The NODPD is very mindful of the particular problems that women prisoners have, particularly those with babies. The NODPD insists that the ruling class has no right under any circumstances to imprison either a pregnant woman or a woman with young dependents.

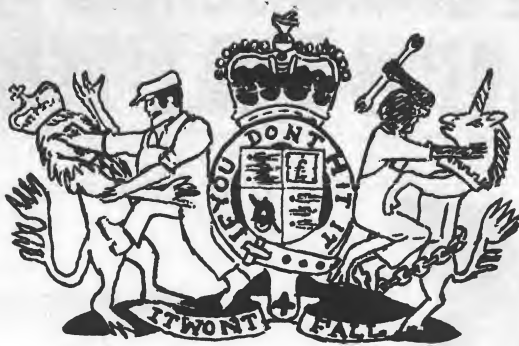
The NODPD further recognizes that the dependents of prisoners also have sentences carried out against them which represent the triple sentencing of prisoners and their families and friends. The vicious enforcement of visiting restrictions, in particular the unjust insistence that visitors must have their photographs taken, police harassment of dependents, the placing of prisoners in prisons a great distance away from families and friends, and other intimidations. Moreover, The NODPD understands that the dependents very often suffer acute problems in obtaining social welfare and other benefits that they are entitled to. The education of the children of prisoners also often presents difficult problems. Also it is not a rare occurrence for children of prisoners to be taken away from them because they are in prison. The NODPD considers that this child stealing amounts to robbery of the lowest order. On top of all these considerations the NODPD is also aware that there are thousands of men and women in prison as a result not of having broken any law but of lies told by police officers in the witness box as a means to their own promotion in the ranks. In a word many who have had their liberty taken away have done nothing wrong at all. The NODPD has learnt that the conditions outlined above cannot be exposed by the national newspapers as these newspapers are owned and controlled by the same class which, through its ownership of finance, banking, industry and commerce is responsible for the exploitation and oppression of millions of ordinary British workers every day of the year, and that the prisons are part of the state machinery of this class and that nothing will change whilst this class remains in power in Britain. Therefore the NODPD will rely on itself and see to it that the TRUE FACTS ARE PUBLISHED.

The NODPD is aware that the ruling class which now has in its prisons many thousands of workers, and which values its property far higher than the rights and dignity of these workers, will do everything in its power to try to suppress the NODPD. These efforts will fail. The NODPD here and now declares war against the brutalisers of prisoners and the harassers of their dependents. All efforts, no matter what form they take, to crush the NODPD are doomed to certain failure. The NODPD has set its course to build a national organisation of prisoners and dependents. Nothing will stop it from achieving this aim. For no force is more powerful than the organised people.



We are pleased to report that even after four issues of the paper, this is number five, the so called 'Hackney Gazette' is still afraid to report of our existence. This we consider to be a good omen, for as far as we can see whenever an organisation needs a puff from that quarter, it's like the kiss of death. We were amused to see the fine promises that the Hackney Young Socialists were making in the 'Spotlight on Youth' (the YS are members of what we believe to be the 'Labour Party') Nodoubt the YS can generate considerable enthusiasm within the corridors of that redoubtable geriatric ward that passes for a local newspaper, but we've yet to see them in the places where it counts - on the streets among the people!!

WHAT



ARE

CLAIMANTS

UNIONS

Four weeks ago, Mrs.D. a woman bringing up three children on her own, had her supplementary benefit money cut off, as the Social Security department had accused her of co-habiting. In fact, she has a friend who comes and stays with her a couple of days a week, but it is not a husband and wife relationship and he doesn't give her money - he can't afford to. He helps her out from time to time with food. She needs what help she can get as she has been having to get by on £12 a week for her and her three kids - and the rent comes out of it too! The S.S. spies have been almost rupturing themselves snooping into the man's affairs; they've been to his firm and asked his boss about him and looked into the company's register. If they had lost him his job because of their nosey-parking - would that have saved the tax-payers money?

Now, the Government handbook on supplementary benefits states that a lot of factors have to be taken into consideration when a woman is going to be cut-off for co-habitation: 'is there a pooled household fund? a common home? children belonging to the couple? what are their regular sleeping arrangements? does the woman use the man's name? are the couple acknowledged openly as husband and wife? None of these factors apply to Mrs.D. and yet on the basis of evidence he refuses to disclose, the S.S. manager of Hornsey Rd. has decided that Mrs.D. is being supported by her friend, who comes to stay from time to time. She is appealing against this decision, but meanwhile, how are she and her three children supposed to live? She can't go out to work - last week her son fell out of one of the many broken windows in the crumbling half-way hostel (more like a prison) where she has been temporarily, over a year, been housed. Her son's hands were so badly cut in this accident that she has had to stay at home to look after him until he can go back to school. The hostel is a blasted out block of tenement flats, mostly deserted, with barred windows. It seems designed to bring out the worst in people. For the last two weeks a Social Security spy has been going round to Mrs D's neighbours encouraging them to pass on to him any local scandal or gossip about her. Some of them have been so cooperative that Mrs D. is being driven spare by the lies that are being bandied about. Somebody has phoned the Children's Welfare Department, telling them to take her children away from her. Since they have visited her the Welfare Dept have ignored this vicious nonsense. The manager of the S.S. could pay Mrs.D. emergency money under section 13 of the Social Security Act which empowers him to give money in cases of urgent need, such as when a person is waiting for an appeal to be heard: but he refuses to do this - leaving Mrs D. and her kids to starve at his discretion. She is being treated as guilty until proved innocent.

On Wednesday the 7th of July, the North London Claimants Union went down as a group to the Hornsey Road S.S. office to support Mrs.D. in making a new claim. The manager refused to talk to her or explain his reasons for cutting her off, telling her to get a job or live off her lover - so the C.U. occupied the office, and the manager resorted to his other department, the Police, to throw the Claimants out. At the moment the situation is one of stalemate. Monday morning the appeal came up in court and the S.S. didn't have a scrap of evidence against Mrs.D. except a drunken old caretaker, who when asked where he got his facts from said "Well I heard it in the local cafe, didn't I?"

Every day hundreds of men and women are being humiliated and de-humanised by the way they are treated by the Social Security. The attitude is that if you are not producing things for profit i.e. working you are less than human and will be treated as a sub-human till you get back to your rightful place - work! But meanwhile Sir Keith Joseph, Tory Minister responsible for the welfare cuts is ranting and raving about "parasites on society, living off decent hard-working tax-payers" and the Tory government is cynically and deliberately pursuing a policy of closing down 'non-profit' making industries (shipbuilding, steel, mining) and laying off thousands of men. The problem is becoming worse as more men are being made redundant - bosses see increased profits in fewer men working longer hours for less real wages - and hence competition for work is becoming greater. The labour force is being divided up into those who have jobs seeing those without as a threat to their security, and those who are unemployed are driven to desperation by the Social Security, are in many cases are willing to take low wages just to get the S.S. off their backs.

The Social Security system aims at keeping people in the worst possible conditions on amounts of money that barely give them enough to live on, to harass and humiliate, they seem to regard the money they handle, our money, as if it belonged to them. The 'professional scrounger' is a figure of contemporary mythology, invented in a number of scare stories by the tory press to try and show how all those greedy workers are 'conning the poor old S.S.' Anyone who has had any experience of the S.S. will know that it is almost impossible to 'con' the S.S. indeed more money is spent in sending out investigating officers than could ever be obtained from them 'on the fiddle'. The system is designed, with all its rules 'the four-week rule', 'wage-stop', 'voluntary unemployment' and 'industrial misconduct rule' to keep workers under control and underpin the low wage levels; it's intent is to provoke workers to scab, to strike-break, to do anything to escape the humiliation.

It results in men and women who are willing to take over the job of another worker sacked for 'industrial misconduct', which in the case of one Ford worker recently meant going to the toilet without asking permission first!

But Mrs.D. is not the only one - every week hundreds of unsupported mothers are being assessed according to the puritanical morality code of some Social Security manager rather than their own needs. More and more marriages are breaking up, women are being left stranded with children to look after. Many can't go out to work because the kids are not at school yet and even if they are able to go to work it is for very low pay. A lot of women are forced to take part-time work or work at home, and thus are the worst paid because they cannot compare their rates with other workers or join a union to improve them.

Claimants Unions

The first Claimants Union was set up two years ago to fight for the needs of people on Social Security. More and more of them have started up since, and there are now almost thirty around the country. We are realising how urgent the need is to fight for unsupported mothers, unemployed workers, old age pensioners and striking workers, not just to get them their rights, but to change the whole ethos of Social Security and the way it supports the government and the bosses in providing a cheap labour force desperate for work, instead of a decent living wage for all workers, who for one reason or another cannot work.

The confidence of the people in themselves and in their strength together is fast growing. The claimants are confident that they will win this case, and in doing so show the power of united action. The tactics of the S.S. are part of the much larger offensive of the ruling class against workers, the constant need of the boss class to divide us is a continual indication of our real strength and their essential weakness. The Industrial Relations Bill, and the Immigration Bill are both measured designed to split our unity and weaken our strength before too many workers fall in to what's going on, and before they start to use the power of the class for themselves.

Support the Claimants Union, there are a number of local groups now active,
Highbury Claimants Union
6 Clephane Road, N.1. (359 2290)

East London Claimants Union
Dame Collet House, Ben Jonson Rd, E.1.
(790 3867)

Hoxton Claimants Union
66 New North Road N.1. (739 3538)

NEVER SEE THE S.S. ALONE!

GET ORGANIZED NOW!



HACKNEY & STOKE NEWINGTON PEOPLE'S PAPER

No5 AUG/SEPT 3p

LOCAL NOTES



A recent article in the Hackney Gazette (22.6.71) raised a number of issues which that paper typically failed to explore. 'Man Hanged in Police Cell' was the headline, and the article concerned a 21 year old unemployed man who was found hanged in Stoke Newington Police Station. Unfortunately this kind of story is appearing more and more in the press. A careful reading of the London evening papers seem to suggest that, for example, about one prisoner a week is found dead in Wandsworth Prison. Is it really too much to expect that more careful preventative measures be taken by police and their doctors could save a number of lives? As the situation stands, the Police authorities must take the responsibilities for these deaths. So too must the coroners, who so often in the interests of 'justice' issue a blanket verdict, 'death by misadventure', perhaps a verdict of 'death by negligence' would be a more honest verdict!

"If you go down to the park today"you'd better not be black, and want to bowl on the public green in Finsbury Park. "There is 'nt actually a colour bar, we just discourage them from joining"- commented a member of the club. Finsbury Park Bowling green is maintained by the GLC, as a public amenity. There is no colour bar as far as we know when it comes to taking rates from workers to maintain the public parks, etc.

GLC Councillors, lets see some action!

In the last issue of the Peoples Paper we issued a public letter to the Labour Council, asking them to make clear where they stood on a number of issues. Support for the fight against the Industrial Relations Bill, opposition to the tory Immigration Bill, a Council Rent freeze, increasing prosecutions of slumlords, free public transport for all old people, and so on. We recieved little attention from the local 'worthies.' Alderman Ottolangui suggested that our letter was 'a sneering' attack on 'labour's false promises' and went on to suggest 'If you are really interested in our socialist activities, I suggest you attend a council meeting and hear of the implementation of our policies'. Nodoubt you will be glad to hear that one of the first fruits of Hackney Labour Party's 'socialism' was the election of three of their number to the aldermanic bench, hardly a priority activity of a 'socialist' organisation, we would have thought anyway. As to the other local 'worthies', they did 'nt seem to think the letter worth replying to. As far as they are concerned their records speak for themselves. So we tell every black worker, the next time your harassed by the police, go straight to the labour party, to every tenant evicted (even council tenants, go straight to the labour party, to every claimant, again, the labour party have always been in the forefront of your fight too.

In case you are interested, Hackney Central Labour Party have set up an Advice Bureau every Friday evening between 7pm. and 8.30 It's at 14a Graham Road E.8. Nice to see you in the community fellow socialists (?).



Listen son, I paid to send you to the best schools, colleges even music lessons when you wanted them - and now look at you!

ADDRESSES

You can get copies of the Stoke Newington Peoples Paper from the following bookshops:

Centreprise 34 Dalston Lane E.8. (254 1620)

Agitprop 248 Bethnal Green Rd E.2. (739 1704)

Compendium Books 240 Camden High St N.W.1. (485 8944)

Libertaria Bookshop 95 West Green Rd. N.15. (800 9508)

Red Books 182 Pentonville Road N.1.

Round About Books 81 Lauriston Rd. E.9. (985 8148)

Local Organisations

Hackney Trades Council, c/o 58 Warburton House, London Fields. N.16.

Hackney Committee Against Racism, c/o secretary, 194 Queensbridge Rd. E.8.

Black Unity and Freedom Party, c/o 31 Belgrade Road, N.16.

North London Alliance in Defence of Workers Rights, 34 Tabley Road, N.4.

Stoke Newington Peoples Association, c/o Centreprise, 34 Dalston Lane (254 1620)

An interesting paragraph we found in 'NAIGO ACTION' a journal produced for militant local government officers.

Available from Centreprise

"As a Town Planning Assistant I am sick of being blamed for the high rents of the 'rabbit hutches' that now pass for new houses and flats. Fifteen or twenty years ago councils used to borrow £2000 to build a decent house and repaid perhaps £8000 to the moneylender over 60 years. Now, because stiffening international competition is forcing firms to borrow money to modernise, the 1% of the population who own 80% of all share capital in Britain have jacked up interest rates from about 5% to 10%. So what with having to pour money into the pockets of the land speculator as well, councils now have to borrow £5000 to build a (worse) house, and therefore repay £35,000! And what applies to housing applies to buses, roads, sewers, schools and hospitals. And yet they still blame us for inflation! Who do they think they are kidding?"

A local strike at Walpamur Distributors, Boleyn Road, Stoke Newington, provides a classic example of the tactics that employers are using in their struggle to maintain high profits and the system of wage slavery. It seems that they re-organised the drivers' rounds, thus making them do more work for the same money. Whether the Union has forced them to back down at the moment is not really clear, but it provides all workers with a salutary lesson.

One of our readers, who works in the Roneo Factory at Romford tells us that very recently 300 workers were sacked and as a result everyone else has to do the equivalent of two jobs. The union involved in this case, The Clerical Workers Union, a small weak right wing union, has 'nt said a word.

But the writing on the wall is clear, for all workers, rationalization, re-organisation, productivity speed-up, all mean one thing, the dole queue. Only a strong and united working class, acting as one can defeat this increasingly common situation. Only by the creation of a socialist society can we prevent the situation where thousands of workers are sacrificed at the whim of the bosses profit margin!

Alternative Press

Stoke Newington Peoples Paper c/o Centre-
c/o Centreprise

Hackney Miscarriage c/o Centreprise
Hackney Pro's & Con's, c/o Centreprise

Black Voice, Popular paper of BUFP,
31 Belgrade road, N.16.

Local people interested in understanding a bit more about Economics, not the Heath/Wilson brand of mercenary profiteering, but economics useful to trade unionists and tenants, might

be interested in attending a series of discussion classes this paper is now running every Tuesday evening at Centreprise, starting at 7.30 p.m. Its best to be well informed when arguing with the silly buggers - including trade union 'leaders' who claim that there's not enough cake to go round.